

BAMPTON, NORTH DEVON

REPORTS

OF

Medical Officer of Health

And . . .

Sanitary Inspector . . .

FOR THE

Year Ending 31st December, 1911

February, 1912.

“TIVERTON GAZETTE” PRINTING WORKS.



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Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report

For the Year 1911.

BAMPTON, NORTH DEVON,

February, 1912.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BAMPTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have much pleasure in presenting my Report for the year 1911.

During 1911 34 births and 20 deaths were registered in the district, giving an apparent increase of 14 in the population.

The birth-rate for the year is 21.62 per thousand of the population; this is below the average for the district, which for the last five years is 23.03.

The death-rate for 1911 is 14.92; this is above the average for the district, which for the last five years is 13.70.

Of the 20 deaths registered in 1911, three were infants under one year, one was due to chronic phthisis, three to cancer, three to heart diseases, one to acute pneumonia, one one to broncho-pneumonia, one to measles, two to Bright's disease, one to peritonitis, one to cerebral hæmorrhage, three from old age.

As regards Infantile Mortality as mentioned above, there were three deaths under one year—one under three months from acute gastritis, one under four months from gastro-enteritis, and one under five months from debility, giving an infant mortality rate of 88.2 per thousand births. This is below the average, which for the past five years has been 92.13 in this district.

Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act one case was reported only, viz., diphtheria, for which no cause can be assigned. It was treated at home and speedily recovered. The premises were thoroughly disinfected, as were the bedding, clothing, and appurtenances. There have been no cases of poliomyelitis, or infectious infantile paralysis.

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE DISTRICT.—The length from East to West is $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles; from North to South is $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles. The area is 7,760 acres.

The rock formation is chiefly carboniferous limestone, overlaid by Culm shales towards the South, with red sandstone lying irregularly upon the Culm shales.

In the North-west the Devonian rocks occur.

The town of Bampton is on gravel soil, situated on two streams, which unite close to the main street and join the river Exe about a mile and a half from the town. The people are mostly engaged in agricultural pursuits. Limestone quarries are worked close to the town. The population at the last census was 1,572.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, &c., ACT.—The number of houses in the district is sufficient for the population—many are old but many improvements and alterations have already been made since the House to House inspection which is now being carried out.

One case of overcrowding was reported and remedied.

WATER SUPPLY.—The town is supplied by a four-inch iron main which brings the water from a spring about 500 yards west of the town.

During the last summer there was a very serious deficiency of water, it is questionable whether the present supply is sufficient for the requirements of the town, perhaps it might be with increased storage accommodation. The present small reservoir is quite insufficient, and the main pipe is too small.

The higher parts of the town suffered severely and must do so, until a supply is stored at a higher level than the existing works. The town could then be well served.

This matter will undoubtedly engage the attention of the Council very shortly.

The water has been frequently tested by me and is of an excellent quality.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—In the face of many difficulties the Council have adopted and begun the scheme proposed by their late Surveyor for dealing with the sewage of the town and the alleged pollution of the River Exe.

The scheme includes the Sewerage and the disposal thereof of the greater portion of the town with the purification and filtration of the same on bacteriological lines.

The work is at present being carried out in three sections, the first comprising Brook Street, Silver Street, Castle Street, and Frog Street is now nearly in the course of completion.

It is hoped that the whole scheme will be completed at the end of 1913.

The cost of the scheme will be paid directly from the Rates.

The Public Elementary Schools have been inspected and found clean and well ventilated.

The Sanitary Arrangements at the Shillingford School are unsatisfactory—the attention of the Educational Authority has been called to this condition.

The children have been examined by the Medical Inspector appointed in 1908.

SCAVENGING is carried out by the Council, the road scrapings and town refuse are taken to agricultural lands at a distance.

DISINFECTION is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. The Tiverton Rural District Council grant the use of their disinfecting apparatus by arrangement.

There is no isolation hospital, Cases requiring isolation are conveyed to the Tiverton Council's Isolation Hospital.

WORKSHOPS.—There are 13 registered including three bakehouses. These are duly inspected. They are clean, in good sanitary condition and well ventilated.

There are no outworkers.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are four. They have been frequently inspected, kept clean, and whitewashed.

All offal is removed in covered vehicles.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS have been frequently inspected, the bye-laws have been enforced and carried out.

No milk is sent away from the district.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—None.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—None.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—No action has been necessary during the year.

NO CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS have been reported.

THE NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT has not been adopted in this district.

UNDER THE MIDWIVES ACT there are three nurses registered and practising in this district. I have examined the appliances and registers. There have been no cases of puerperal fever.

ACTS AND BYE-LAWS.—The Bye-laws made in 1892 are in force. Parts II. and III. of the Public Health Amendment Act of 1890 have been adopted.

The Sanitary Inspector has carried out his duties with activity and sound judgment since his appointment.

Yours truly,

THOMAS W. WIDGER BOVEY,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., London.

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Officer's Annual Report

For the Year 1911.

TO THE BAMPTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my report for the past year.

GENERAL HEALTH.—The general health of the district has been good. Only one case of notifiable disease has occurred, namely a case of diphtheria. There was no apparent cause, but the premises and drains were thoroughly disinfected.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE WORKS.—The scheme proposed by Mr. Ellis, and adopted by you is being pushed forward. The work is to be carried out in three sections, the first comprising the sewer from the Meadows, Brook Street, Silver Street, Castle Street and Frog Street. This section is now nearing completion.

The majority of the house drains en route have been re-laid with pipe in cement. Water Closets have been put in, and water laid on, and proper Inspection Chambers and Ventilation provided.

TOWN WATER SUPPLY.—Samples have been taken at intervals and tested by the Medical Officer who certifies the supply as being of excellent quality.

It was found that during the summer, owing to the drought, it was necessary to cut the supply off from the lower parts of the Town daily at intervals, in order to supply the higher parts. This in my opinion was caused by the insufficient storage capacity, and the size of mains. This could be remedied by building a storage Reservoir at the present works and increasing the size of the delivery main, but would not supply the property not already served by the present system.

HOUSE CONNECTIONS.—Only one connection has been granted, and this has not been done, but there will probably be several more in the near future.

NUISANCES, &c.—Various nuisances of the minor kind have been dealt with satisfactorily.

COTTAGE ACCOMMODATION.—There have been several improvements made in this direction, although no new cottages have been built. The accommodation seems too sufficient for the needs of the District. There has been one case of overcrowding which was dealt with satisfactorily.

DAIRIES.—There are three registered for the sale of milk, which have been regularly inspected by the Medical Officer and myself, and have been found to be kept in good order.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are three, none of which are underground, and they have been kept in a satisfactory manner.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—There are four of these, none having been registered during the past year. They have been regularly inspected, and have been kept clean and whitewashed. The dung, &c. has been cleared regularly and there have been no serious complaints.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.—These are quite satisfactory. Ventilation and Sanitary arrangements good. There are no outworkers.

SCHOOLS.—These have been inspected regularly by the Medical Officer and myself. They are for the most part clean, well ventilated and sanitary, except the Shillingford and Petton School, where the sanitary arrangements and Cloak Room accommodation are not adequate. The closets (which are bucket closets) are also too close to the school.

SCAVENGING, REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE, &c.—This has been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT.—No action has been necessary.

BUILDING PLANS.—There have been no plans for new buildings submitted during the year.

FIRE BRIGADE.—The whole of the appliances are in good order, and the proper number of drills taken place.

Yours Obediently,

W. F. SIDDALLS.